

Many Americans are still shying away from EVs despite Biden's push, an AP-NORC/EPIC poll finds



Jose Valdez, 45, who owns three EVs, leaves a charging station in his Mustang Mach-E, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in San Antonio.

Associated Press
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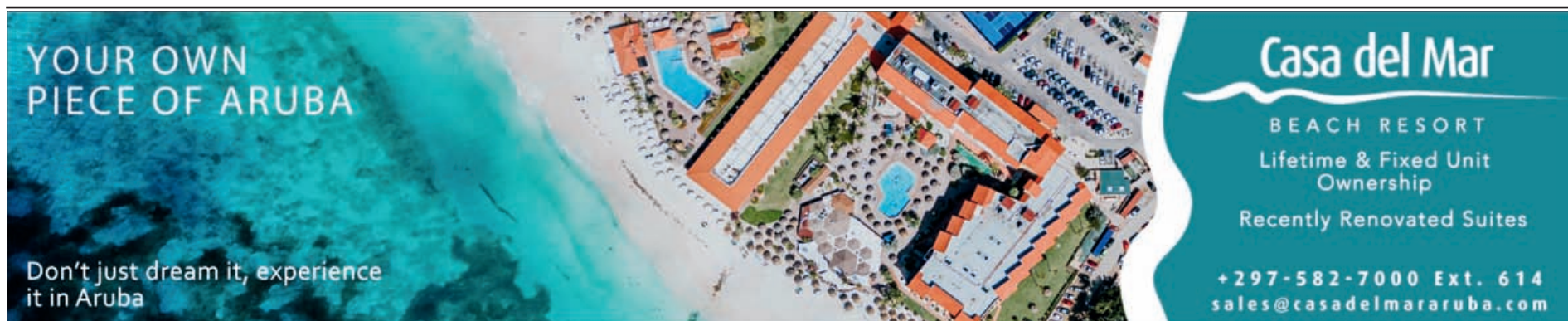
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Many Americans are still shying away from EVs despite Biden's push, an AP-NORC/EPIC poll finds

From Front

By **MATTHEW DALY and LINLEY SANDERS**
Associated Press

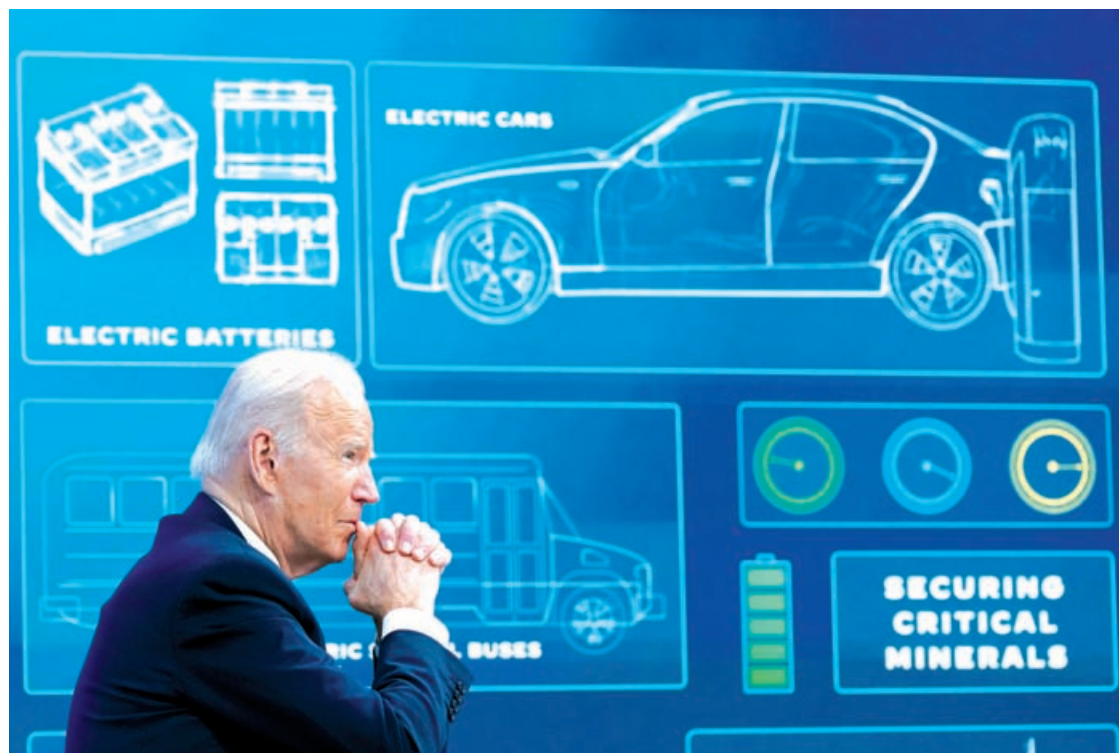
WASHINGTON (AP) — Many Americans still aren't sold on going electric for their next car purchase. High prices and a lack of easy-to-find charging stations are major sticking points, a new poll shows.

About 4 in 10 U.S. adults say they would be at least somewhat likely to buy an EV the next time they buy a car, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago, while 46% say they are not too likely or not at all likely to purchase one.

The poll results, which echo an AP-NORC poll from last year, show that President Joe Biden's election-year plan to dramatically raise EV sales is running into resistance from American drivers. Only 13% of U.S. adults say they or someone in their household owns or leases a gas-hybrid car, and just 9% own or lease an electric vehicle.

Caleb Jud of Cincinnati said he's considering an EV, but may end up with a plug-in hybrid — if he goes electric. While Cincinnati winters aren't extremely cold, "the thought of getting stuck in the driveway with an EV that won't run is worrisome, and I know it wouldn't be an issue with a plug-in hybrid," he said. Freezing temperatures can slow chemical reactions in EV batteries, depleting power and reducing driving range.

A new rule from the Environmental Protection Agency requires that about 56% of all new vehicle sales be electric by 2032, along with at least 13% plug-in hybrids or



President Joe Biden listens during an event in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex, Feb. 22, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

other partially electric cars. Auto companies are investing billions in factories and battery technology in an effort to speed up the switch to EVs to cut pollution, fight climate change — and meet the deadline.

EVs are a key part of Biden's climate agenda. Republicans led by presumptive nominee Donald Trump are turning it into a campaign issue.

Younger people are more open to eventually purchasing an EV than older adults. More than half of those under 45 say they are at least "somewhat" likely to consider an EV purchase. About 32% of those over 45 are somewhat likely to buy an EV, the poll shows.

But only 21% of U.S. adults say they are "very" or "extremely" likely to buy an EV for their next car, according to the poll, and 21% call it somewhat likely. Worries about cost are widespread, as are other practical concerns.

Range anxiety — the idea

that EVs cannot go far enough on a single charge and may leave a driver stranded — continues to be a major reason why many Americans do not purchase electric vehicles.

About half of U.S. adults cite worries about range as a major reason not to buy an EV. About 4 in 10 say a major strike against EVs is that they take too long to charge or they don't know of any public charging stations nearby. Concern about range is leading some to consider gas-engine hybrids, which allow driving even when the battery runs out. Jud, a 33-year-old operations specialist and political independent, said a hybrid "is more than enough for my about-town shopping, dropping my son off at school" and other uses.

With EV prices declining, cost would not be a factor, Jud said — a minority view among those polled. Nearly 6 in 10 adults cite cost as a major reason why they would

not purchase an EV.

Price is a bigger concern among older adults.

The average price for a new EV was \$52,314 in February, according to Kelley Blue Book. That's down by 12.8% from a year earlier, but still higher than the average price for all new vehicles of \$47,244, the report said.

Jose Valdez of San Antonio owns three EVs, including a new Mustang Mach-E. With a tax credit and other incentives, the sleek new car cost about \$49,000, Valdez said. He thinks it's well worth the money.

"People think they cost an arm and a leg, but once they experience (driving) an EV, they'll have a different mindset," said Valdez, a retired state maintenance worker. The 45-year-old Republican said he does not believe in climate change. "I care more about saving green" dollars, he said, adding that he loves the EV's quiet ride and the fact he doesn't have to pay for gas or maintenance. EVs

have fewer parts than gas-powered cars and generally cost less to maintain. Valdez installed his home charger himself for less than \$700 and uses it for all three family cars, the Mustang and two older Ford hybrids.

With a recently purchased converter, he can also charge at a nearby Tesla supercharger station, Valdez said.

About half of those who say they live in rural areas cite lack of charging infrastructure as a major factor in not buying an EV, compared with 4 in 10 of those living in urban communities.

Daphne Boyd, of Ocala, Florida, has no interest in owning an EV. There are few public chargers near her rural home "and EVs don't make any environmental sense," she said, citing precious metals that must be mined to make batteries, including in some countries that rely on child labor or other unsafe conditions. She also worries that heavy EV batteries increase wear-and-tear on tires and make the cars less efficient. Experts say extra battery weight can wear on tires but say proper maintenance and careful driving can extend tire life.

Boyd, a 54-year-old Republican and self-described farm wife, said EVs may eventually make economic and environmental sense, but "they're not where they need to be" to convince her to buy one now or in the immediate future.

Ruth Mitchell, a novelist from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, loves her 2017 Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid that can go about 50 miles on battery power before the gas engine takes over. "It's wonderful — quiet, great pickup, cheap to drive. I rave about it on Facebook," she said. □

House passes proposal sanctioning top war-crimes court after it sought Netanyahu arrest warrant

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed legislation Tuesday that would sanction the International Criminal Court for requesting arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials.

The 247-155 vote amounts to Congress' first legislative rebuke of the war crimes court since its stunning decision last month to seek arrest warrants for the leaders of Israel and Hamas. The move was widely denounced in Washington, creating a rare moment of unity on Israel even as partisan divisions over the war with Hamas intensified.

While the House bill was expected to pass Tuesday, it managed to attract only modest Democratic support, despite an outpouring of outrage at the court's decision, dulling its chances in the Senate. The White House opposes the legislation, calling it overreach. Both the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House Foreign Affairs Committee acknowledged the bill in question is unlikely to become law and left the door open to further negotiation with the White House. They said it would be better for Congress to be united against the Hague-based court.

"We're always strongest, particularly on this committee, when we speak with one voice as one nation, in this case to the ICC and to the judges," GOP Rep. Mike McCaul, chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said during House debate. "A partisan messaging bill was not my intention here but that is where we are." State Department spokesperson Matt Miller reiterated the administration's opposition to the sanctions bill.

"We have made clear that while we oppose the decision taken by the prosecutor of the ICC, we don't think it is appropriate, especially while there are ongoing investigations inside Is-

rael looking at somebody's very same questions, and we were willing to work with Congress on what a response might look like but we don't support sanctions," Miller said.

The House bill would apply sweeping economic sanctions and visa restrictions to individuals and judges associated with the ICC, including their family members. Democrats labeled the approach as "overly broad," warning it could ensnare Americans and U.S. companies that do important work with the court. "This bill would have a chilling effect on the ICC as an institution which could hamper the court's efforts to prosecute the dubious atrocities that have been perpetrated in many places around the world, from Ukraine to Uganda," said Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The legislation reprimanding the ICC was just the latest show of support from House Republicans for Israel since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that ignited the war. Republicans have held several votes related to Israel in recent months, highlighting divisions among Democrats over support for the U.S. ally.

Congressional leaders have invited Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress this summer, which is likely to further inflame tensions over Israel's handling of the war. Many Democrats are expected to boycott the speech. Both the ICC and the United Nations' highest court, the International Court of Justice, have begun to investigate allegations that both Israel and Hamas have committed genocide during the seven-month war.

Last month, ICC's prosecutor, Karim Khan, accused Netanyahu, his defense minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders — Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh — of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, front, attends a wreath-laying ceremony marking Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, in Jerusalem, Israel, on May 6, 2024.

Associated Press

Gaza Strip and Israel.

Netanyahu and other Is-

raeli leaders condemned

the ICC's move as dis-

graceful and antisemitic. President Joe Biden and members of Congress also lambasted the prosecutor and supported Israel's right to defend itself.

Israel is not a member of the court, so even if the arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it difficult for Israeli leaders to travel abroad.

"Failing to act here in the Congress would make us complicit with the ICC's illegitimate actions and we must not stay silent," McCaul said. "We must stand with our allies." □

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Southwest U.S. to bake in first heat wave of season, and records may fall with highs topping 110

By **SCOTT SONNER and ANITA SNOW**

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The first heat wave of the season is bringing triple-digit temperatures earlier than usual to much of the U.S. Southwest, where forecasters warned residents Tuesday to brace for dangerously hot conditions.

By Wednesday much of an area stretching from southeast California to central Arizona will see "easily their hottest" weather since last September, and record daily highs will be in jeopardy, the National Weather Service said.

Excessive heat warnings were issued for Wednesday morning through Friday evening for parts of southern Nevada and Arizona, with highs expected to top 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) in Las Vegas and Phoenix. The unseasonably hot weather was expected to spread northward and make its way into parts of the Pacific Northwest by the end of the week.

"We're looking at high temperatures well in the 90s and 100s, temperatures well above average for the time of year — some spots as much as 10 to 20 degrees above average," said Marc Chenard, an NWS meteorologist in College Park, Maryland.

The hot temperatures' persistence over several days, with



People cool off in misters along the Las Vegas Strip, Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

even nights staying warm, will increase the impact, he added.

On Monday the U.S. Border Patrol reported that four migrants died last weekend from heat-related causes while attempting to cross into the country in southeast New Mexico, near El Paso, Texas. Anthony Good, the agency's El Paso sector chief, urged migrants not to risk the extreme heat.

"The desert environment is extremely unforgiving, especially during the summer months," Good said. "We urge anyone considering crossing illegally to understand the severe risks in-

involved."

Fire crews will be on high alert especially in Arizona, where fire restrictions went into effect before Memorial Day in some areas and will be ordered by Thursday across much of the western and south-central parts of the state, authorities said.

Fire forecasters at the Southwest Coordination Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said typically it does not get this hot until mid- or late June. "It does seem like Mother Nature is turning up the heat on us a little sooner than usual," said Tiffany Davila, a spokesperson for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire

Management.

"We can't back down from a fire just because it's pushing 113 degrees outside. But we do keep a close eye on everybody in the field. Make sure they are keeping hydrated and taking more breaks than they normally would," she said.

Monday highs reached 110 F (43.3 C) at Death Valley National Park in California near the Nevada line, 103 F (39.4 C) in Phoenix and 105 F (40.5 C) in Needles, California.

In Las Vegas, which topped out at 103 F (39.4 C) that day, the mercury was forecast to hit at least 108 F (42.2 C) on Wednesday and could then

go even higher, according to the NWS.

"A new record high looks almost certain for Las Vegas on Thursday with an 80% chance of reaching 112 degrees (44.4 C). This would tie the earliest date for reaching 110 degrees (43.3 C) which previously occurred June 6, 2010," the weather service said Tuesday.

Forecast highs for Thursday included 120 F (48.8 C) at Furnace Creek in Death Valley and 113 F (45 C) in Phoenix, the latter of which would break a record high for the date of 111 F (43.8 C), set in 2016.

Last summer the city saw a record 31 straight days of at least 110 degrees F (43.3 C), stretching from the last day of June through the entire month of July. At least 400 of the year's 645 heat-related deaths were during that period.

Phoenix, Maricopa County and Arizona state officials are striving to better protect people from ever higher temperatures. Those most in danger from the heat are people outdoors, especially homeless people in downtown areas who often lack sufficient access to things like water, shade and air conditioning. This year governments are setting aside more money to keep cooling stations open longer and on weekends, including two that will stay open overnight. □



Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling responds to a question as U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle, left, listens during a news conference about the upcoming Democratic National Convention on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in Chicago.

Associated Press

By **SOPHIA TAREEN**
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Police Superintendent Larry

Chicago police tweak mass arrests policy ahead of Democratic National Convention

Snelling on Tuesday touted the nation's second-largest police department as fully prepared to handle crowds of protesters expected during the Democratic National Convention, including new ways to handle possible mass arrests. Law enforcement agencies have been planning for more than a year for the August convention that is expected to draw an estimated 50,000 visitors and massive protests. "Make no mistake, we are ready," Snelling said during

a news conference alongside U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle. Chicago police have received fresh de-escalation training, while about 3,000 officers are undergoing specialized training to "respond directly to civil unrest and the possibility of riots," according to Snelling. Proposed changes to the way police deal with mass arrests, which are still being finalized, include more supervisor review onsite and debriefings afterward to

see what worked and what didn't.

"Mass arrest is a last resort," Snelling said. "But we know the realities of these types of situations, especially when the number of people we're expecting to converge upon Chicago is inevitable that there is a possibility for vandalism. There is a possibility for violence, and we are prepared to deal with that."

The department has been in the spotlight for its handling of large-scale events. □

U.S. urges UN Security Council to support cease-fire plan in Gaza announced by President Biden

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United States urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

"Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

The brief draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would welcome the May 31 deal announced by Biden and call on Hamas "to accept it fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition." Hamas has said it views the proposal "posi-



People speak during a Security Council meeting about the war in Gaza at United Nations headquarters, Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

tively."

It makes no mention of Israeli acceptance of the deal.

When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring cease-fire" and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza if Hamas releases all hostages it is holding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his hardline governing partners Monday the proposal announced by Biden would meet Israel's goal of destroying Hamas, according to local media. The ultrana-

tionalists have threatened to bring down his government if Netanyahu agrees to a deal that doesn't eliminate Hamas.

Netanyahu told parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday that Biden gave an outline of the deal but not all the details, and he said there are "gaps."

Biden said the first phase of the proposed deal would last for six weeks and include a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza and

the release of some hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

American hostages would be released at this stage, and remains of hostages who have been killed would be returned to their families. There would be a surge in humanitarian assistance, with 600 trucks a day entering Gaza.

In the second phase, all the rest of the living hostages would be released, including soldiers, and Israeli forc-

es would withdraw from Gaza. Biden said if Hamas lives up to its commitments, the temporary cease-fire would become a "cessation of hostilities permanently."

About 250 people, mainly Israeli civilians, were abducted on Oct. 7, then more than 100 were freed in a short truce in late November and early December. Israel says about 80 hostages are believed to still be captive, alongside the remains of about 43 others.

Israeli bombardments and ground offensives in Gaza, which Hamas has ruled, have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The third phase of the plan announced by Biden calls for the start of a major reconstruction of Gaza, which faces decades of rebuilding from devastation caused by the war.

The draft resolution stresses the importance of Israel and Hamas adhering to the deal once it is agreed to, "with the aim of bringing about a permanent cessation of hostilities, and calls upon all member states and the United Nations to support its implementation." □

Associated Press

Any French military in Ukraine would be a 'legitimate target' for Russian forces, Lavrov says

By **LOUIS PATRICK OKAMBA**
Associated Press

OYO, Republic of Congo (AP) —

Any French military instructors in Ukraine would be a "legitimate target" for Russian armed forces, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday during a tour of Africa, where frustration with the West has swayed several countries toward Moscow.

Lavrov made the remarks at joint news conference with the Republic of Congo's Foreign Minister Jean Claude Gakosso.

"As for the French instructors,

I think they are already on the Ukrainian territory," Lavrov said, referring to the military instructors that France could send to train Ukrainian troops. "Regardless of their status, military officials or mercenaries represent a legitimate target for our armed forces."

Ukraine's top commander said last week he had signed paperwork allowing French military instructors to access Ukrainian training centers soon. But French President Emmanuel Macron said last week he would not comment on "rumors or decisions that could be made." He said he

would elaborate on France's support during the 80th anniversary commemorations of D-Day later this week.

Macron's office said it would not comment on Lavrov's remarks. Also Tuesday, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that "instructors who train the Kyiv regime's troops don't have any sort of immunity, and it doesn't matter whether they are French or not."

Lavrov has visited the African continent several times in the past few years as Russia seeks to shore up support amid Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. A number of Afri-



Russian Foreign minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during a joint press-conference with Bolivian Foreign Minister Celinda Sosa Lunda in Moscow, Russia, Friday, April 26, 2024.

Associated Press

can countries in recent years have expressed growing frustration with their traditional Western partners like France

and the United States. Some of them have instead turned to Russia to seek help in fighting Islamic insurgencies. □

Interpol and FBI break up a cyber scheme in Moldova to get asylum for wanted criminals

By **THOMAS ADAMSON and STEPHEN MCGRATH**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A multinational operation by Interpol and the FBI cracked down on attempts in Moldova to sabotage one of the international police agency's key tools, the Red Notice system, officials said Tuesday. Four people were detained in the eastern European country.

The joint sting, which also involved cooperation with French and British authorities, uncovered an international criminal organization with ties to individuals in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus suspected of cybercrime, Moldova's anticorruption chief said.

The suspected individuals "paid intermediaries and public figures in Moldova to inform wanted criminals of (their) Red Notice status," Veronica Dragalin, the anticorruption chief, told reporter.

The notice flags people deemed fugitives to law enforcement worldwide and is one of Interpol's most impor-



People walk on the Interpol logo at the international police agency headquarters in Lyon, central France, Thursday Nov. 8, 2018.

tant tools. The investigation led to the detention of four people for 72 hours on suspicion of interfering with the notices, Dragalin said.

The scheme sought to have people subject to Red Notices "obtain asylum or refugee status" in Moldova and other countries "with the

aim of blocking and deleting" the notices by bribing public officials, she added. The sums of money involved, she said, amount to several million dollars (euros). Interpol said the operation by the international policing agency, headquartered in Lyon, France, followed the

detection of attempts to "block and delete" the notices, which flag people deemed fugitives to law enforcement worldwide. Moldova opened an investigation on April 2, after receiving information from France's National Financial Prosecutor's Office, and

Associated Press

subsequently requested the assistance of the FBI.

"We are committed to fighting high-level corruption in all of its forms, particularly those schemes that put in jeopardy criminal investigations worldwide," Dragalin said.

A statement from Interpol said the agency has taken steps to prevent further "misuse of its systems."

"Our robust monitoring systems identified suspicious activity," said Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock. "We took immediate action, including reporting the issue to law enforcement authorities in our host country France."

Stock highlighting the vast number of individuals subject to Red Notices — over 70,000 people — but did not elaborate on the attempted sabotage.

When reached by The Associated Press, Interpol said because it was a Moldovan-French probe, it would not be appropriate for the agency to elaborate on an ongoing investigation. □

Mexico's next president faces 3 pressing challenges: money, dialogue and the U.S. election



Voters stand in line as they wait their turn to cast their ballots, during general elections in Mexico City, Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Associated Press

By **MARÍA VERZA**
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's newly elected president, the first woman to win the job, faces a long list of challenges, including persistent cartel violence, a deeply divided country, cash-straitened social programs and the long

shadow of her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

But for some analysts it mostly comes down to three things: money, dialogue and the outcome of the U.S. presidential election. Claudia Sheinbaum, who begins her six-year presidential term Oct. 1, has four

months ahead of her to define her administration's agenda. During this time, López Obrador is expected to continue delivering his daily morning press briefings as he tries to solidify his legacy.

The coexistence might be far from easy: He has divided society; she says she wants to unite it. He is a leader of the masses; she is an academic and a scientist.

López Obrador has said he will not interfere with his protégé's administration. "I do not aspire to be a 'moral leader,' a 'maximum boss,' a 'caudillo,'" he said Monday.

He has insisted that once his presidency is over, he is going to "talk with the trees, live with the birds." Yet, it was he who announced Monday that current Treasury Secretary Rogelio Ramírez de la O would remain in his post through the

next administration in a bid to avoid a market meltdown. The balance between continuity and change will not be simple.

A top economic challenge will be whether Sheinbaum will have the money to continue her predecessor's popular social programs, considering the government has a big deficit of almost 6% that the Treasury has vowed to reduce.

"There needs to be fiscal reform," said Isidro Morales, an economics and international relations expert. Otherwise, he warns, citing Mexico's decreasing oil income as one problem, "Claudia is going to have her hands tied."

Mexico's state-owned oil company Pemex is López Obrador's most fervent symbol of nationalism, but it continues to lose money and oil is far from the primary revenue

stream it once was. Yet, it is a red line for Sheinbaum who, despite being a climate scientist who wants to move into clean energy, closed her campaign last week before gigantic banners of support from oil industry workers.

President Joe Biden's reelection or the return to power of former President Donald Trump will be "the real variable that will change scenarios," Pérez Ricard said. The outcome could not only influence security, trade and immigration policies, but also many internal decisions about the role of Mexico's army, he said. Sheinbaum studied in the U.S., speaks English and understands that country's politics, which would lead one to think there would be more understanding with Washington, but no one can control the Trump factor. □



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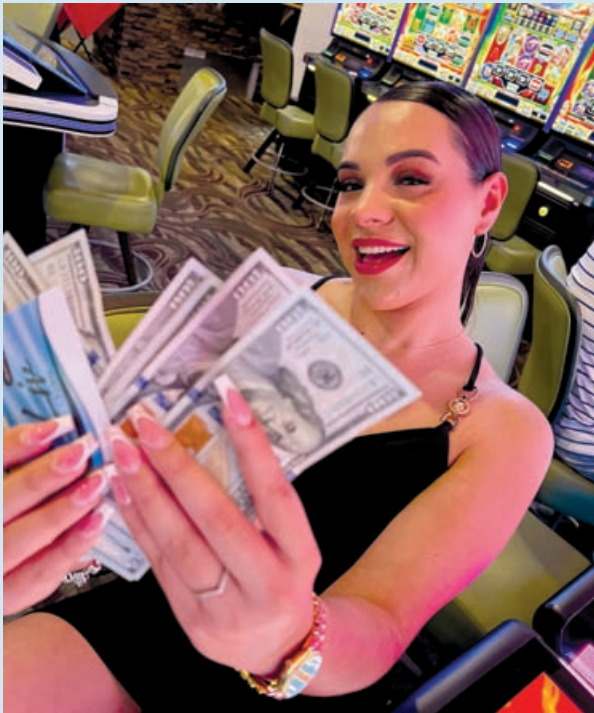
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About LIV Casino, Barcelo Aruba: LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barcelo Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 10 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows

Blackstone Beach

the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

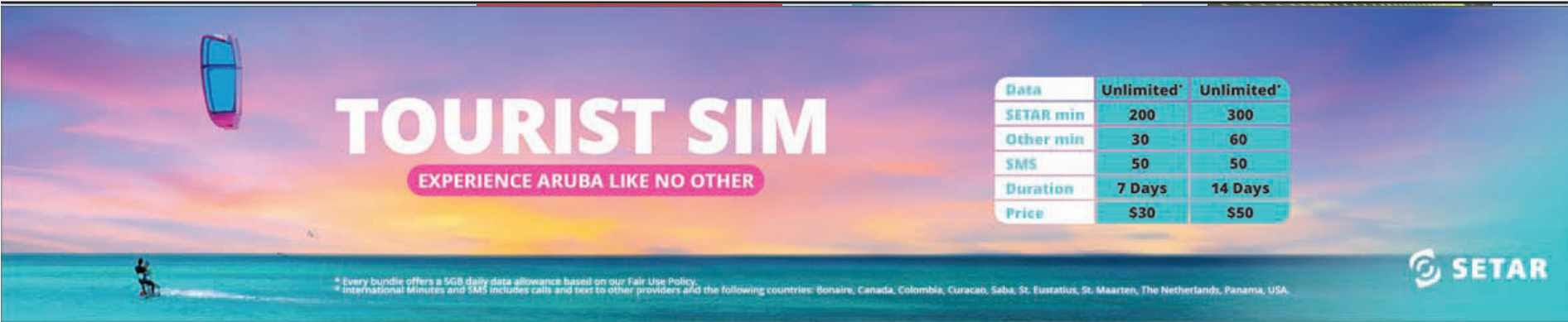
Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone

Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water,

as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □






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Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Marriott Aruba Surf Club!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively. The three levels of honor are as follows: Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was: Distinguished Visitor
Mr. Cornell Hughes from Olympia Fields Illinois, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing

Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beach.
- Aruba's stores.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "Enjoy the beautiful island"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.



Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesoillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition



that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Fantastic Amaranths

Episode CCLVIII-258

Each week, we share one story of Aruba through the eyes of Etnia Nativa, a native venue that welcomes curious visitors, dipping them into a unique cultural island experience. Since that educational glance in this episode explains about a very nutritious plant locally known as "kalalu," best grown in warm places.

Its name, Callaloo, is used in the Caribbean to refer to the leaves of the taro, dasheen, tannia, amaranth, or yautia root. In the U.S., it is often difficult to get the leafy green readily, so it is common to use spinach as a substitute, which also goes by the name bhajgee (bah-gee).

The etymology of the word callaloo can be traced to Caribbean patois, with influences from the African word kalulu (KAL-OO-LOO), also known as Jamaican patois or calaloux, is a plant used in popular dishes in many Caribbean countries. As other Caribbean dishes, callaloo in the greater Caribbean is a remnant of West African and Taino cuisine.

Callaloo is mostly served as a side dish; its leaves are packed with nutritional benefits and contain large amounts of vitamins A, B, and C. They are also high in fiber, iron, and calcium. This plant isn't the only beloved Caribbean dish that is hearty and healthy. It is a culinary mainstay for many island nations and a national dish in Dominica, Trinidad, and Tobago. Some of these countries have embraced this dish from their ancestors and, over time, have added ingredients such as coconut milk to modify its flavor.

There are two main kinds of callaloo, produced from distinctly different plant species. One kind comes from the Amaranthus family and consists of young, tender leaves and stems. The other kind, really a substitute, consists of the young, tender leaf and stem of the ed-doe plant.

While nearly every take on callaloo features some type of leafy green vegetable, the other ingredients used depend on location and availability, and leafy green vegetables provide so many nutritional bene-



fits. Callaloo is a plant that is very easy to grow and can also be juiced, getting all the great green chlorophyll that is very healing.

This nutritious vegetable is high in dietary fiber, and increasing your fiber intake helps increase the bulk of your stools to contribute to digestion and prevent constipation. Healthy fiber intake also reduces your likelihood of developing hemorrhoids and other common digestive complaints.

Callaloo contains four times the amount of calcium found in broccoli and twice the amount of iron. It is a really good source of protein, so it's great for building muscle and for weight loss. It's similar to spinach but with a creamy flavor.

Callaloo is a plant as nutritious as its big sister, quinoa, which is an excellent substitute for rice. Although quinoa has a longer history and the seeds that are

the food source, its milder flavor, greater availability, and marketed as a superfood have contributed to its greater popularity as a cereal than callaloo as a vegetable.

Quinoa has a longer history and cultural significance since it was considered the food of the gods by the ancient Inca Empire, giving it greater recognition and popularity for cultivation and consumption compared to callaloo. It has been a staple food in the Andean region of South America for thousands of years, while callaloo was more a staple food in Mesoamerican and Caribbean cultures, but was largely forgotten after the Spanish conquest. While Callaloo's nutritious value has not received the same level of marketing recognition and promotion as quinoa. Callaloo is a plant that is very easy to grow and can also be juiced, getting all the great green chlorophyll that is very healing.



If you are interested in learning all about the true identity of Aruba, book your visit to Etnia Nativa, home of Anthony, our chief cultural columnist, who guides and lectures to unveil the most interesting stories about the island. Etnia Nativa sets itself apart from the rest as a hidden gem by offering a personal native touch and providing its visitors with the opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, dissected animals, plants, colonial furniture, unique old photos, etc. while dipping you into the navel of Aruba.

Book your visit: Whats App +297 592 2702 etnianaativa03@gmail.com.□

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who

set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.



In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said

that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Bamboo eaters
7 Like some cheeses
11 Swear (to)
12 Valentine word
13 Colorful flower
14 Was windy
15 Worked the soil
17 Harangue
20 Skilled
23 Imitating
24 Colorful flower
26 Gift tag word
27 Shade tree
28 Music genre
29 Colorful flower
31 Low digit
32 Blockhead
33 Altar vows
34 Lazy — (turntables)
37 Fling
39 Colorful flower
43 For two, in music
44 Lake of Alberta
45 Harry Truman's wife
46 Anxiety

DOWN

- 1 Jotting spot
2 —
3 Ultimate
4 Glazed pottery
5 Sri Lanka setting
6 Betelgeuse, e.g.
7 Reflective quality
8 Colorful flower
9 Early evictee
10 Grass coat
16 Molten stuff
17 Kid-friendly singer
18 Audibly
19 Colorful flower
21 Grand, for one
22 Some demos
24 Outdoes
25 Yale backer
30 Shelters
33 Put out
35 Rights org.
36 Day divider
37 Saloon bill
38 Exalted verse
40 Soccer's Hamm
41 CIA predecessor
42 Notice

B	A	S	I	S		S	A	L	A	D
A	W	A	R	E		I	R	A	Q	I
W	A	L	K	I	N	G	T	O	U	R
L	Y	E		Z	E	N		S	A	T
			P	E	T	A	L			
P	A	R	I	S		L	O	F	T	S
A	P	E	X			P	A	V	E	
Y	E	M	E	N		T	E	R	S	E
			L	A	P	A	Z			
A	D	O		D	I	N		L	A	D
R	U	N	N	I	N	G	J	O	K	E
I	N	C	U	R		L	O	G	I	N
D	E	E	T	S		E	B	O	N	Y

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15			16				
17	18	19				20			21	22
23				24	25					
26				27				28		
29			30					31		
32							33			
		34			35	36				
37	38				39			40	41	42
43					44					
45					46					

6-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

C ZKJW BKM PKQW FCVRD
OKK. CO CD WLK GKACLYP.
CO DYQWD UKCGU OK
Z W Y Q W G . — W A C P B
RCLXCGDKG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER, ONLY UNSUITABLE CLOTHING. — ALFRED WAINWRIGHT

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C	1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	B	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Service dogs helped ease PTSD symptoms in U.S. military veterans, researchers say

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

Specially trained service dogs helped ease PTSD symptoms in U.S. military veterans in a small study that the researchers hope will help expand options for service members.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides talk therapy and medications to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and runs a pilot program involving service dogs. The VA can prescribe service dogs to certain veterans diagnosed with a visual, hearing or substantial mobility impairment, including eligible veterans with PTSD, and will cover some costs associated with having a service dog.

The agency continues to review the research "to evaluate the effectiveness of service dogs," said VA press secretary Terrence Hayes, "and we are committed to providing high-quality, evidence-based care to all those who served."

Study co-author Maggie O'Haire, of the University of Arizona's veterinary college, said one of the researchers' goals was "to bring evidence behind a practice that appears to be increasingly popular, yet historically did not have the scientific base behind it."

For the study, service dogs were provided by K9s For Warriors, a nonprofit organization that matches trained dogs with veterans during a three-week group class. The dogs are taught to pick up a veteran's physical signs of distress and can interrupt panic attacks and nightmares with a loving nudge.

Researchers compared 81 veterans who received service dogs with 75 veterans on the waiting list for a trained dog. PTSD symptoms were measured by psychology doctoral students who didn't know which veterans had service dogs.

After three months, PTSD symptoms improved in



Dave Crenshaw poses for a photo with his service dog, Doc, in front of his home in Kearny, N.J., on Monday, June 3, 2024.

Associated Press

both groups, but the veterans with dogs saw a bigger improvement on average than the veterans on the waiting list. The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, was published Tuesday in JAMA Network Open.

It wasn't clear from the study whether spending time with any dog would have had the same effect. (About 40% of the veterans in both groups owned pet dogs.) And all the veterans in the study had access to other PTSD treatments. Service dogs should be considered complementary and not a standalone therapy, O'Haire said.

"When you add it to existing medical practices, it can enhance your experience and reduce your symptoms more," she said.

PTSD is more common

among veterans than civilians, the VA says, affecting as many as 29% of Iraq war veterans over their lifetimes. Symptoms include nightmares, flashbacks, numbness or the feeling of being constantly on edge. "I would wake up in the middle of the night, almost nightly, in a pool of sweat," said Dave Crenshaw, who served with the Army National Guard in Iraq and was diagnosed with PTSD in 2016 while working undercover in law enforcement. Antidepressants helped with some symptoms, he said, but he still felt numb. The 41-year-old veteran met his service dog, a pointer-black lab mix named Doc, in 2019. He immediately felt what he described as "joy and wholesomeness. It's just an overwhelming feeling of

"Hey, everything's going to be OK."

Doc senses when he's upset, often before he notices himself, and come close, Crenshaw said. Today, Crenshaw is no longer taking antidepressants and is enjoying retirement from the military and law enforcement. He gives Doc credit for getting his life back on track.

"It's the greatest medicine with the least amount of side effects," Crenshaw said. □

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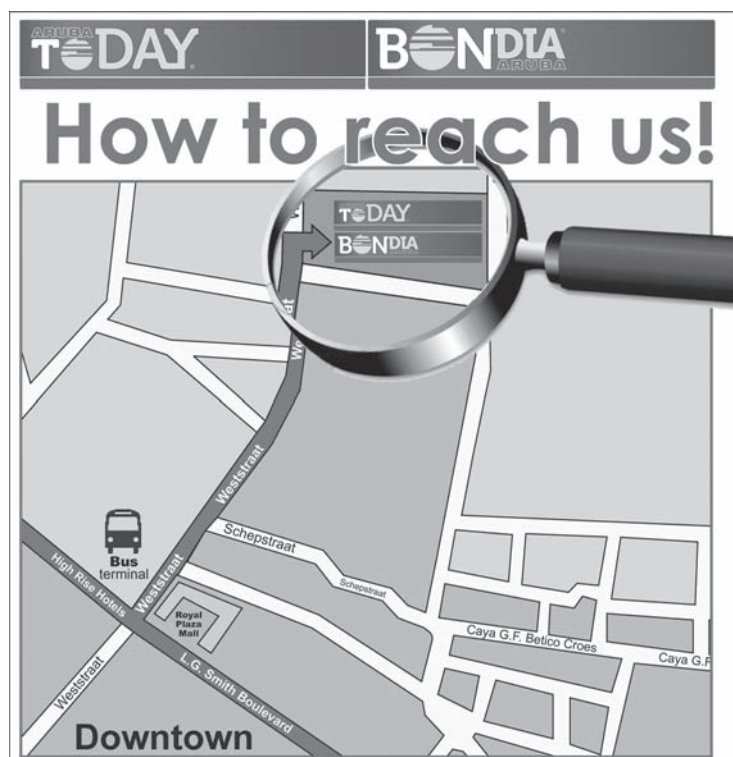
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Will Smith is back in 'Bad Boys: Ride or Die,' with Martin Lawrence riding shotgun

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

"Bad Boys: Ride or Die," the fourth installment in the Will Smith-Martin Lawrence action-comedy series, is about a fight to redeem a tarnished legacy. No, not that one. The reputation of Conrad Howard (Joe Pantoliano), the beloved captain of detectives Mike (Smith) and Marcus (Lawrence), has been posthumously besmirched. After his death, Conrad is framed as an informant for a Mexican drug cartel as a way to cloak more sinister corruption. Our detectives set out to clear his name. Of course, the real image restoration that's going on here is for Smith. "Ride or Die" was in development in 2022 when Smith strode onto the Oscar stage and smacked Chris Rock. The film was temporarily put on hold. Options were weighed. But 2020's "Bad Boys for Life" made a hefty \$424.6 million before COVID-19 shut down theaters. Watcha gonna do? The result is the first movie Smith has made in that era defined as Post Slap. Here he is, back in the driver's seat and flying around the Miami waterfront with Lawrence riding shotgun. That's to say: Smith is very much back in his element. "Ride or Die," which opens in theaters Thursday, is an attempt to pretend there



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Will Smith, left, and Martin Lawrence in "Bad Boys: Ride or Die."

Associated Press

haven't been any bumps in the road along the way. More than that, this "Bad Boys," coming 29 years after the original, would like very much to act as if nothing much has changed in not just the last two years but in the previous three decades. Some signs of age is creeping in "Ride or Die." Marcus has a heart attack on the dance floor and Mike is suffering from panic attacks. But with the exception of a drone or two, this is a movie that feels like it exists in the 1990s. Jerry Bruckheimer is still a producer, while original di-

rector Michael Bay has, as he did in the previous one, steps aside for Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah. (Bay returns for a cameo.) But "Ride or Die," set against Miami nightclubs and alligator-crawling hideouts, has largely stuck to its old buddy-cop formula with all the requisite explosions and slow-mo'ed car chases mixed in. As before, the key is the comic chemistry and endearing bond between Smith and Lawrence. And, really, as much as the response to "Ride or Die" is sure to be taken as a referendum on

Smith's recalibrated drawing power, Lawrence is the MVP of these movies. It's his manic comic energy that propels them. The schtick may be a little stale at this point, but no one can deliver a line like "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!" in a gunfight with quite the same panache. "Ride or Die," scripted by Chris Bremner and Will Beall, knows to prioritize crafting ripe situations for Lawrence. After his heart attack, Marcus wakes up with a new zest for life and a foolhardy feeling of invincibility. The same might have once

been said of Smith's bullet-proof screen presence, of course. Here, Smith seems a little less cocksure than he once did; those panic attacks keep coming for Mike. Smith is also playing more of a straight-man to Lawrence. If the slap caused a reassessment of Smith as a movie star, "Ride or Die" is the kind of the tailor-made vehicle that reminds you there haven't been many better male American action stars in the last few decades. None of this is enough to lift "Ride or Die" beyond its paint-by-numbers plotting, or prevent the film from being inevitably tethered to the Slap — not least because the film climaxes with Marcus smacking Mike with an open hand. But the directing duo of Adil & Bilal keep the pace moving quick enough to prevent you from dwelling too much on ridiculous details — like that Mike, as revealed in the last film, is the father to an imprisoned cartel assassin named Armando (Jacob Scipio), a prominent character this time around. And silliness is more of a feature than a bug in movies like "Bad Boys." You end up questioning less why Smith and Lawrence are still making "Bad Boys" movies than wondering why such breezily watchable genre movie-star platforms more or less don't exist any longer. □



Alec Baldwin emcees the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Ripple of Hope Award Gala at New York Hilton Midtown on Dec. 9, 2021, in New York.

By **KAITLYN HUAMANI**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alec Baldwin and his wife Hilaria are the next family set to star in their own reality series.

Associated Press

The actor and producer, who has seven kids under age 10 with his wife, announced the TLC reality show about their life as a party of nine. "The Baldwins," the show's working

Alec and Hilaria Baldwin announce TLC family reality series

title, is set to release in 2025. "We're inviting you into our home to experience the ups and downs, the good, the bad, the wild and the crazy," Baldwin said in a video he shared to Instagram on Tuesday. In the announcement video, the couple joked about Hilaria announcing another pregnancy, but she said they are done having kids before the clip cut to a chaotic shot of their children screaming and the parents struggling to wrangle the bunch for a group photo.

The couple married in July 2012 and welcomed their first child in August 2013. Baldwin was previously married to actor Kim Basinger, who had his eldest daughter, Ireland. The announcement comes as Baldwin prepares for trial for his involuntary manslaughter charge in the fatal shooting on the set of the film "Rust" in 2021. The trial is scheduled for July in Santa Fe and Baldwin has pleaded not guilty. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 18 months in prison. While filming the Western

movie, which Baldwin produced and starred in, a revolver he was holding fired, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said that he did not pull the trigger. In April, the film's weapons supervisor Hannah Gutierrez-Reed received the maximum sentence of 18 months in a New Mexico state penitentiary after being convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a jury determined she failed to follow gun safety protocols. □

Novak Djokovic withdraws from the French Open with a knee injury and will lose the No. 1 ranking

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic pulled out of the the French Open with an injured knee on Tuesday, an abrupt end to his title defense and to his current stay at No. 1 in the rankings.

"I am really sad to announce that I have to withdraw from #rolandgarros," Djokovic posted on social media. "I played with my heart and gave my all in yesterday's match and unfortunately, due to a medial meniscus tear in my right knee, my team and I had to make a tough decision after careful consideration and consultation."

The tournament said the extent of the injury was found during an MRI exam Tuesday. Djokovic was hurt during a fourth-round victory against No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo on Monday that lasted five sets spread across more than 4 1/2 hours. It was his second consecutive five-setter, with his total time on court across the two exceeding 9 hours. The 24-time Grand Slam champion was supposed to face No. 7 seed Casper Ruud, the runner-up each of the past two years at Roland Garros, in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Instead, Ruud gets a walkover into the semifinals, where he will face No. 4 Alexander Zverev or No. 11 Alex de Minaur. With Djokovic, the owner of three French Open titles,



Serbia's Novak Djokovic slipped and fell during the fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 3, 2024.

gone from the bracket, and Rafael Nadal — owner of a record 14 — eliminated in the first round, someone will be holding the French Open men's trophy for the first time on Sunday. The group of remaining contenders includes No. 2 seed Jannik Sinner, a 22-year-old Italian who defeated No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday to get to the semifinals and now is assured of replacing Djokovic atop the ATP rankings next week. Sinner won the Australian Open in January and becomes the first man from his country to reach No. 1. His match against Dimitrov was in progress when news of Djokovic's withdrawal

spread. So Sinner had no idea until he was asked about it during an on-court interview after his win. "Seeing Novak (injured) is, for everyone, disappointing," Sinner said, "so I wish him a speedy recovery." And as for his newfound status? Alcaraz reached the final four in Paris for the second year in a row — he cramped up and lost to Djokovic in 2023 — by defeating No. 9 Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-4 on Tuesday night. Sinner and Alcaraz have played eight times, splitting them 4-4. They have played twice at majors, splitting those 1-1. "Well, it's a really difficult challenge. I'm not going to

lie. Right now, he's the best player in the world — or the player who is playing the best tennis right now," Alcaraz said. "It is the match that everybody wants to watch." Amid a season in which Djokovic is only 18-6 and has not reached a final at any tournament, let alone won one, he needed to get back to the title match at the French Open to continue to add to his record for most weeks at No. 1. For years and years, Djokovic, Nadal and Roger Federer ruled men's tennis as the so-called Big Three, accumulating a total of 66 major championships among them. But Federer, now 42, is retired, and Nadal, who turned 38

on Monday, is trying to figure out how much longer he can compete after missing most of the past 1 1/2 seasons with injuries.

No one knows yet how long Djokovic, 37, will be sidelined or what, if any, effect this might have on his future.

Wimbledon, where has won seven titles, starts July 1, and the tennis competition at the Paris Olympics starts at Roland Garros on July 27.

"I saw that he was obviously physically struggling (Monday), and I honestly thought ... he was on the verge of losing," said U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff, who made her way into the women's semifinals with a three-set win over Ons Jabeur and will play No. 1 Iga Swiatek on Thursday.

Seeing Djokovic pull out the win against Cerundolo, Gauff said, made her think "that he would win the title." Djokovic's knee had been bothering him for a couple of weeks before he arrived in Paris for the French Open — something he kept to himself until after the win against Cerundolo. Early in the second set Monday, Djokovic tweaked his knee and took a medical timeout. A trainer worked on the joint then and during subsequent changeovers, and Djokovic took what he said a tournament doctor told him was the maximum dose of pills allowed to dull the pain and reduce any inflammation. □

Associated Press

Foster, Brothers, Davis and Capers headline 12 officials for NBA Finals between Celtics, Mavericks

NEW YORK (AP) — Scott Foster, Tony Brothers, Marc Davis and James Capers were among the 12 game officials chosen to work the NBA Finals between the Boston Celtics and Dallas Mavericks.

The NBA announced the selection on Tuesday, two days before Game 1 in Boston.

Also selected were Zach Zarba, John Goble, David Guthrie, Bill Kennedy, Josh Tiven, Courtney Kirkland, James Williams and Kevin

Scott.

"Each of these 12 officials have shown excellent skills, focus and commitment throughout the season and in the previous playoff rounds," said Byron Spruell, NBA President, League Operations. "Congratulations to this group for earning the right to work on the game's biggest stage, the NBA Finals."

The officials were selected by the NBA Referee Operations management team based on their perfor-


mance throughout the first three rounds of the playoffs. Officials were evaluated after each round to determine advancement in this year's postseason. Foster has officiated 24 NBA Finals games, followed by Davis with 20, and Brothers at 16.

Tyler Ford and Ben Taylor have been assigned as alternate officials for the championship round. Individual game assignments are posted the morning of each game. □



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) argues with referee Kevin Scott (24) during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Thursday, May 30, 2024, in Minneapolis.

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MLB bans Tucupita Marcano for life for betting on baseball, four others get one-year suspensions

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — San Diego Padres infielder Tucupita Marcano was banned from baseball for life for betting on the sport and four others were suspended for one year by Major League Baseball on Tuesday in the game's biggest gambling scandal in decades.

MLB said Marcano placed 387 baseball bets totaling more than \$150,000 in October 2022 and from last July through November with a legal sportsbook. He became the first active player in a century banned for life because of gambling.

Oakland Athletics pitcher Michael Kelly was suspended for one year for betting on baseball while in the minor leagues and three minor leaguers also were banned for one year for betting on big league games: pitchers Jay Groome of San Diego and Andrew Saalfrank of Arizona, and infielder José Rodríguez of Philadelphia. Each of those four players wagered under \$1,000. Saalfrank and Rodríguez played previously in the majors.

"The strict enforcement of Major League Baseball's rules and policies governing gambling conduct is a critical component of upholding our most important priority: protecting the integrity of our games for the fans," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "The longstanding prohibition against betting on Major League Baseball games by those in the sport has been a bedrock principle for over a century. We have been clear that the privilege of playing in baseball comes with a responsibility



This combination of 2024 file photo shows baseball players, from left, Tucupita Marcano, Jay Groome, Michael Kelly, Jose Rodríguez and Andrew Saalfrank.

Associated Press

to refrain from engaging in certain types of behavior that are legal for other people."

Marcano is the first active major leaguer banned for life under the sport's gambling provision since New York Giants outfielder Jimmy O'Connell in 1924. Pete Rose, baseball's career hits leader, agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on Cincinnati Reds games while managing the team. Major League Rule 21, posted in every clubhouse, states betting on any baseball game in which a player, umpire, league official or team employee has no duty to perform results in a one-year suspension. Betting on a game in which the person has a duty to perform results in a lifetime ban.

Marcano became the second North American athlete banned for gambling in recent months. The NBA gave Toronto's Jontay Porter a lifetime ban in April after concluding he disclosed confidential information to bettors and wagered on games, including on the Raptors to lose.

MLB said it was tipped off in March about the betting activity by a legal sports betting operator. New monitoring measures put in place with MLB and the

sportsbook triggered these wagers being flagged for attention, a person familiar with investigation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity Tuesday because that detail was not announced.

None of the players punished played in any games on which they wagered, and all players denied to MLB they had inside information relevant to their bets or the games they gambled on — testimonies that MLB said aligned with data received from the sportsbook.

In its announcement, MLB detailed the bets alleged for each player, Marcano's 387 baseball bets included international games and 231 MLB-related wagers for \$87,319 from Oct. 16-23, 2022, and from last July 12 through Nov. 1. Twenty-five of those bets included wagers on Pirates games while he was on the team's major league roster. Now 24, Marcano, has not played since tearing his right ACL last July 24 and was receiving medical treatment at PNC Park last year.

Marcano bet almost exclusively on the outcomes of games and lost all of his parlay bets involving the Pirates, winning just 4.3% of all of his MLB-related bets. Marcano made his major

league debut on April 1, 2021, and has a .217 average with five homers, 34 RBIs and seven stolen bases in 149 games. He has played in both the infield and outfield.

"While the thorough investigation revealed no evidence of any games being compromised, influenced or manipulated in any way in this case, protecting the integrity of our game is paramount," the Pirates said in a statement.

The other four players did not bet on games involving their assigned teams.

Kelly placed 10 bets on nine major league games from Oct. 5-17, 2021, while a minor league player assigned to Houston's Triple-A Sugar Land farm team. The bets included wagers on outcomes, over/under on runs and an individual pitcher's strikeout total. Three of the nine games involved the major league Astros. His wagers totaled \$99.22 and resulted in \$28.30 of winnings.

Kelly, 31, was 3-2 with a 2.59 ERA in 28 games this season, last pitching on Saturday at Atlanta. The former first-round draft pick appeared in 46 games over the past three seasons.

Groome, a 25-year-old who had been on a minor league injured list since mid-April, placed 32 MLB-

related bets from July 22, 2020, through July 24, 2021, including 24 on the Boston Red Sox major league team while he was assigned to Boston's High-A team in Greenville, South Carolina. The sport detailed he wagered \$453.74 on 30 MLB games and had a net loss of \$433.54, receiving payouts on only two wagers. His betting included parlays.

Rodríguez, 23, has been at Double-A Reading this season. He placed 31 bets on baseball on Sept. 30, 2021, and from June 5 through July 30 in 2022, including 28 on MLB and three on college baseball. The total included seven involving the Chicago White Sox at the time he was assigned to their Double-A team in Birmingham, Alabama. Two of the White Sox bets involved outcomes and the others were on runs scored. He bet \$749.09 on baseball, of which \$724.09 was on MLB-related bets that included parlays.

Saalfrank, 26, pitched in 21 games for Arizona last year between the regular season and postseason, including three World Series games, and two this year before he was optioned to Triple-A Reno on May 1. He placed 29 baseball bets from Sept. 9 through Oct. 29 in 2021 and on March 9, 2022, including 28 on MLB and one parlay on college baseball. He placed four bets on the big league Diamondbacks while on the injured list of their Low A farm team. His baseball bets totaled \$445.87 on baseball, including \$444.07 on MLB, and lost \$272.64 on MLB bets and \$1.80 on the college wager. He won just five of 28 MLB bets, which included outcomes, runs and pitcher strikeouts. □